

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 04176 111021Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2525
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4176

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

E.O.11652: XGDS-1, DECONTROL 1995
TAGS: PFOR, AF, IR
SUBJ: AFGHAN-IRANIAN RELATIONS

REF: KABUL 3282 (NOTAL)

1. AFGHAN AMBASSADOR ZALMAY MAHMUD-GHAZI CONFIRMED TO ADCM MAY 10 THAT NAIM'S VISIT TO TEHRAN APPEARS TO HAVE OVERCOME HELMAND WATERS DIFFICULTIES. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ASIA AND AFRICA NAYERI ALSO CONFIRMED THIS SAME DAY.

2. ACCORDING TO MAHMUD-GHAZI, NAIM ASSURED THE SHAH IN COURSE OF LONG PRIVATE MEETING AND SEVERAL SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER THAT KAMAL KHAN DAM IS INTENDED TO DIVERT FLOOD WATERS ONLY AT TIMES OF EXCEPTIONALLY HEAVY FLOODS SUCH AS OCCUR NOT MORE OFTEN THAN EVERY 20 YEARS. DAM WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH FLOOD WATERS EVERY YEAR OR EVERY FIVE YEARS OR EVEN EVERY TEN YEARS, MAHMUD-GHAZI TOLD US. HE SUGGESTED THIS WILL MEAN SCALING DOWN ORIGINAL PLANS FOR THE DAM AND "NOT SPENDING MUCH MONEY ON IT."

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3. AS A RESULT IRANIANS HAVE AGREED TO TURN THE SPIGOT OF AID BACK ON. BASICALLY, THREE PROJECTS ARE ENVISAGED IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. ONE IS 10 MILLION DOLLARS FOR KANDAHAR CEMENT PLANT, ANOTHER APPROXIMATELY 10 MILLION DOLLARS AS IRANIAN CONTRIBUTION TO NEW INDUSTRIAL BANK TO BE FORMED IN KABUL, AND THIRD IS SLAUGHTER HOUSE IN HERAT,

WHICH WOULD PROCESS HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF AFGHAN SHEEP FOR IRANIAN MARKET AND, THROUGH IRAN, TO OTHER GULF COUNTRIES. AMBASSADOR SEEMED SATISFIED THAT IRANIANS WOULD PROCEED WITH DISBURSEMENT REASONABLY SOON, THOUGH HE DID NOT MENTION SPECIAL AFGHAN DELEGATION COMING TO IRAN (REFTEL).

4. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR AFGHANS HAVE COME UP WITH FACE SAVING WAY OF CURTAILING THEIR DAM PROJECT TO SATISFACTION OF THE SHAH. AFGHAN AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THERE WERE SIGNS OF HELPFUL ASSISTANCE FROM USG BEHIND THE SCENES, A THOUGHT FROM WHICH WE DID NOT DISABUSE HIM.

5. WE HAVE NOTHING TO APPEND TO KABUL'S SUGGESTION FOR SECRETARY'S TALKING POINTS. ASSUME IRAN'S RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN WILL COME UP DURING SHAH'S TOUR D'HORIZON OF SOUTH ASIA, IN CONTEXT PAKISTAN'S TROUBLES IF NOT OTHERWISE. A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE SECRETARY FOR SHAH'S UNDERSTANDING AND GENEROSITY TOWARD AFGHANISTAN WOULD CERTAINLY BE APPROPRIATE.
MIKLOS

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